FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 058

26 March 1986

ARGENTINA

Government To Safeguard Rights During Strike B 1
Troccoli on Strike Success B 1
Forced Savings Payments To Begin in April B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 19 Mar]

BOLIVIA

ADN Not Considering Breaking Pact With Government C 1
Appointment of Senate President Approved C 1
[EL DIARIO 19 Mar]
Cocaine Seized; 58 Traffickers Arrested C 1
Consul to Chile Ratified by President Paz C 2
Congressman Criticizes Rapprochement With Chile C 2

BRAZIL

Charge D'Affaires Explains Reagan Remarks D 1
[O GLOBO 25 Mar]
Note Released D 1

COLOMBIA

Carlos Pizarro Assumes Top M-19 Position F 1
[EL SIGLO 19 Mar]
Police Arrest 37 Alleged M-19 Guerrillas F 1
[EL SIGLO 18 Mar]

PERU

Foreign Minister on U.S.-Libyan Confrontation J 1
Shining Path Propaganda Chief Arrested J 1
[EXPRESO 15 Mar]
New Terrorist Group Bombs APRA Offices J 1

URUGUAY

Iglesias on Contadora, Trade, National Debt K 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 23 Mar]
National Party Not To Participate in Next Cabinet K 3

VENEZUELA

Lusinchi Refutes Rumors of Pardon for Cubans L 1
Libyan Official Sends Message to Consalvi L 1
Lusinchi Not To Attend Debt Symposium in U.S. L 1
[EL NACIONAL 14 Mar]

MEXICO

Debt Payments Deferred for Second Time M 1
New Member of Inter-American Investments Corporation M 1
Briefs: Marijuana, Ships Seized M 1

PANAMA

Noriega Interviewed on Economy, Security N 1
Group Claims Responsibility for Bomb Attacks N 4
[San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE 18 Mar]
Yugoslav Federal Secretary Makes Courtesy Visit N 5
[CRITICA 22 Mar]
New U.S. Ambassador 'Warned' by PRD Official N 5
[LA PRENSA 25 Mar]
Correction to Article on Conato Switch to Opposition N 6
Briefs: Ambassador to Spain Appointed N 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

EL SALVADOR

Gen Blandon Discusses Proposed Holy Week Truce P 1
Prelate on Cease-Fire P 2
FMLN Communique Rejects Idea of 'Unilateral Truce' P 3
[Venceremos]

HONDURAS

Tension Continues Over Alleged Sandinist Incursion P 4
Press Secretary Interviewed P 4
Communique Confirms Incursion P 7
Quezada Responds to Press P 8
Azcona, Commanders Meet P 9
Meeting Ends P 9
Nicaraguan Envoy 'Recalled' P 10
Nicaragua Reportedly Downs Army Helicopter P 10
Military Denies Downing P 11
U.S. Donates $20 Million for Troop Transportation P 12
Troops Sent to Border P 12
Nicaraguan Envoy Calls for Border Commission P 13
900 Sandinist Troops Reported 'Trapped' P 14
New Incursions in Olancho P 15
EPS Suffers 100 Casualties P 15
Two Injured by Sandinist Mine in Border Town P 16
Presidential Motorcade in Accident; Azcona Unhurt P 16
Correction to Nicaraguan Minister's Interview P 16

NICARAGUA

Formation of Border Commission Requested P 16
Tunnerman Refutes Charges of Sandinist Invasion P 17
Astorga Refutes Charge [AFP] P 18
Government Communique [Tegucigalpa] P 19
Honduras Denies Sandinist Incursion P 19
'Terrorist Plot' Frustrated in Region 2 P 20
EPS Disrupts Contra Plans in Chontales P 20
Contras Kidnap Civilians Near Puerto Cabezas P 21
Proposal To Host 1989 Nonaligned Movement Summit P 21
Briefs: Coffee Harvest Statistics P 21

CUBA

Reportage on U.S.-Libyan Conflict in Gulf of Sidra Q 1
U.S. To Aid Honduras Q 1
U.S. 'Aggression' Scored Q 1
Further Comment Q 2
ANC's Tambo Arrives, Comments on Struggle Q 3
Castro Decorates Tambo Q 3
Risquet, Tambo Speak Q 4
Visit Isle of Youth Q 4
Rodriguez Meets Guyanese Minister Jackson Q 4
Protocol Signed; Jackson Leaves Q 4
Malmierca Meets With Vietnamese Official Q 4

CARIBBEAN

HAITI

Street Fires Set To Protest Military Government S 1

JAMAICA

Communist Party Criticizes Seaga Government S 2

GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS DURING STRIKE

PY250208 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0049 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (TELAM) -- Tomorrow the government will guarantee the constitutional rights to work, petition and move freely throughout the country, and will adopt the necessary measures to safeguard the normal development of all public acts organized by political and labor union organizations.

A communique issued tonight by the Interior Ministry, related to the stoppage of activities organized by the General Labor Confederation [CGT] leadership for tomorrow, adds that the government will also safeguard the tranquillity of all persons that may or may not support the measure of force. Following is the text of the communique:

Regarding the national stoppage declared by the CGT for 25 March, the Interior Ministry hereby addresses the public to point out the following: The government will guarantee all the legitimate mechanisms of the constitutional right to work, petition, and move freely throughout the country. Moreover, it will prove all necessary security measures to safeguard the normal development of all public actions organized by labor union and political organizations as well as the tranquillity of persons that may or may not support the measures of force.

The Interior Ministry hereby expresses its firm determination to take measures so that the various democratic expressions of dissent may be expressed with the support of the norms of coexistence and mutual respect which are supported by the great majority of the citizens. These measures will also keep out those who seek to confuse and distort the legitimate reasons for the stoppage.

Troccoli on Strike Success

PY260125 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2307 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (DYN) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli tonight admitted that the general strike sponsored by the CGT was heeded by at least 55 percent of the workers. Troccoli was asked about the CGT strike and its success during a ceremony in which Facundo Saurez Lastra, under secretary of the interior, was promoted to interior secretary. In this regard Troccoli said that "it was about even," that about 55 percent obeyed the strike and 45 percent did not.

FORCED SAVINGS PAYMENTS TO BEGIN IN APRIL

PY191958 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- Forced savings will be brought forward to next month, the economy ministry announced last night. Payment will now fall due between April 15 and 20 instead of the end of May as originally scheduled. The official aim of the change is to avoid too many taxes having to be paid in May but sources said that after three consecutive months of deficit the treasury needs new funds to balance its books again. No changes were announced for the second installment of the 1986 quota, which will fall due in October or November.

ADN NOT CONSIDERING BREAKING PACT WITH GOVERNMENT

PY241359 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] leader Guillermo Fortun has stated that ADN President General Hugo Banzer Suarez will arrive in La Paz tomorrow after attending a commemoration of the ADN founding anniversary. Fortun stressed that there are no conflicts within the party and that the statements made by two individuals are only their personal beliefs, not those of the party. Regarding his membership in the party at the same time that he is a director of some state companies, he said that this is possible because of government procedures. However, he said that this does not mean a breakup of the pact between the ADN and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR].

[Begin recording] Of course this does not mean that the pact for democracy will be broken up, because it is above everything. However, if the party decides that the government is following a line that is not compatible with ours, we would have to order our people to withdraw. This is clearly stated in the document we signed. [end recording]

Fortun also pointed out that after Banzer arrives in La Paz and meets with his party political committee, he will then talk with the media.

[Begin recording] He will remain in La Paz for the next 48 hours, and he will talk with the media after he meets with the party political committee, and of course mainly with Panamericana, which has wide coverage throughout our country. [end recording]

These were comments by ADN leader Guillermo Fortun, who mainly pointed out: If the government's policy is not compatible with that of his party, the ADN will order the withdrawal of its members. He said that this does not mean that the ADN-MNR pact will be broken up. He also reported that ADN President Hugo Banzer will arrive in La Paz either today or tomorrow.

APPOINTMENT OF SENATE PRESIDENT APPROVED

PY260149 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Senate unanimously elected Oscar Zamora Medinacelli pro tempore president of the National Senate and Ciro Humbordt Barrero as first vice president of this legislative body. The appointment of the president and first vice president of the National Senate is contained in two resolutions that were approved unanimously by the senators present at yesterday's session.

COCAINE SEIZED; 58 TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED

PY251815 Paris AFP in Spanish 1424 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (AFP) -- DNCSP [National Directorate for Controlling Dangerous Substances] Regional Director Police Colonel Jaime Barrera today reported that the Leopards, a police unit specializing in the antinarcotics struggle, have seized 107 kg of cocaine, arrested 58 people, and seized 4 vehicles over the past 3 days in the Chapare area, Cochabamba Department, central Bolivia.

The raid led to the arrest of coca leaf treaders (men who trample coca leaves, which are then mixed with other substances), cocaine traffickers, and businessmen involved in drug trafficking.

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy has announced that the Leopards will attempt to reduce coca cultivation, which is a U.S. Government prerequisite for granting economic assistance to Bolivia.

CONSUL TO CHILE RATIFIED BY PRESIDENT PAZ

PY251825 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] President Victor Paz Estenssoro has ratified his confidence in the newly appointed Bolivian Consul to Chile Jorge Siles Salinas during a meeting at government house this morning. The following is a statement made by Jorge Siles Salinas on leaving government house.

[Begin recording] It has been a pleasant meeting. We talked about the president's speech yesterday in the Plaza Varoa. I told him I agree with the contents of his speech. In turn, the president has expressed his confidence in me and has reiterated that I should count on his support during my mission that will start in Chile next week, where I have been appointed general consul. [end recording]

Siles Salinas did not wish to comment on the maritime subject and its reactions in congress.

CONGRESSMAN CRITICIZES RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CHILE

PY251609 Paris AFP in Spanish 0418 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez was charged today in La Paz with conducting a pro-Pinochet foreign policy during an interpellation in the Chamber of Deputies lodged by Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] Congressman Fernando Salazar Paredes.

Salazar Paredes termed a serious mistake by Bolivian diplomacy the dangerous rapprochment with the Chilean regime, providing some oxygen at a time when it is almost being suffocated by international democratic pressure.

Salazar Paredes criticized President Paz Estenssoro for stating that Bolivian-Chilean ties need a new approach after more than 8 years of severance, which stemmed from General Pinochet's lack of interest in overcoming the problem of Bolivia's geographic enclosure.

Indeed, on 23 March, the country recalled the 107th anniversary of the loss of the Bolivian sea coastline to Chile during a homage paid to Eduardo Ayaroa, the Bolivian hero of the Pacific War.

Foreign Minister Bedregal's interpellation will continue tomorrow, 25 March.

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EXPLAINS REAGAN REMARKS

PY260142 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] Brasilia -- Yesterday at a meeting of U.S. Charge d'Affaires Alexander Watson with Itamaraty General Under Secretary for Political Affairs Ronaldo Costa, the U.S. Government verbally presented the explanation requested by the Brazilian Government regarding a statement by President Ronald Reagan that Brazilians are being trained in Nicaragua for guerrilla activities in Brazil.

Neither government wanted to reveal the details of the meeting, but Watson affirmed that "President Reagan never said that Brazilian radicals trained in Nicaragua are returning to Brazil. He only said that there are Brazilian radicals trained there.

According to protocol, the U.S. charge d'affaires should have been received by Itamaraty's Secretary General Paulo de Tarso, who requested the explanation, but he is sick. The fact that the explanation was verbal does not detract from the importance of the explanation. Satisfied with the speed with which the explanation was given, Itamaraty's spokesman Rui Noguera said that "the form of transmitting diplomatic messages is chosen by the sender."

At the next Contadora Group meeting, scheduled for 5-6 April on Contadora, the Panamanian island after which the group is named, Brazil will support the formation of a commission to oversee the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. According to spokesman Rui Noguera, it is not yet known whether the support will simply be of a formal nature or will imply the sending of Brazilian troops to patrol the region.

In Porto Alegre, the first secretary of the Soviet Union's Embassy in Brasilia, Boris Fessenkco, reacted yesterday to the U.S. denunciation that Nicaragua might be sending arms for the guerrillas in Brazil with an ironic remark: "This is not President Ronald Reagan's first gaffe with Brazilians, whom he once called Bolivians."

Note Released

PY260252 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0056 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Brasilia, 25 Mar (EFE) -- According to the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. Government was unable to specify what relationship there is between Brazilian extremists and the Nicaraguan subversive plans. In a simple note released by the Foreign Ministry today, it is stated that the U.S. Government is unable to specify what type of aid is specifically granted (by Nicaragua) to the Brazilians.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry's message, based on an explanation given by the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, stated that neither Reagan nor U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said or tired to suggest that Brazilian extremists, trained in Nicaragua, are acting in Brazil.

Last week the Foreign Ministry demanded an explanation of Reagan's arguments from the U.S. Embassy. According to the embassy (U.S.), what was meant was that Nicaragua gave extremists of various Latin American countries, including Brazil, military training and forged passports, among other resources. The Foreign Ministry's message states that it has taken due note of the explanations given by the U.S. Embassy with the belief that there will be no further incorrect remarks or misinterpretations.

CARLOS PIZARRO ASSUMES TOP M-19 POSITION

PA241540 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] The leftist M-19 will assume a hard line following the death of its top leader Alvaro Fayad Delgado, who has been replaced by Carlos Pizarro Leongomez (son of a former vice admiral), considered a military strategist, not a politician. During the past few hours the M-19 admitted the death of its Commanding General Alvaro Fayad Delgado on 13 March in the Quinta Paredes neighborhood during a clash with the National Police elite forces.

Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, considered a "hard-line" strategist, has assumed the general command of this rebel movement, which has been active during the past few weeks after breaking peace agreements with President Belisario Betancur's government.

Pizarro Leongomez currently heads the so-called "National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG], an organization composed of the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT], Free Fatherland, Quintin Lame, Army of National Liberation, Popular Liberation Army (EPL), and the M-19.

The CNG recently faced an internal crisis when the Quintin Lame pro-Indian movement announced its withdrawal due to the bold incursions and the resulting high number of victims and wounded. However, the Quintin Lame decided to withdraw from both the M-19 and from the so-called America Battalion. "We have already withdrawn our fighters from Valle del Cauca and from the ranks of the America Ballation, and we have broadened our political-military actions in Tolima Department, where the Indian population is confronting a difficult situation," Quintin Lame spokesmen recently said.

We have learned that the M-19's leadership will be as follows: commanding general: Carlos Pizarro Leongomez; Central Command: Antonio Navarro Wolff and Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris;" High Command: German Rojas Patino, Marco Chalita, Vera Grave, Pedro Pacheco, Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, Israel Santamaria, and Libardo Parra.

Appointed as members of M-19's National Directorate are: Salvador Herazo, Arjaid Artunduaga, Eduardo Chavez, Afraino Parra, Dario Anay, Rafael Maria Artega Giraldo, Jose Yamel Riano, Gerardo Ardila, Jaime Bermeo, Fernando Sanchez, Otto Felipe, Anibal Gustavo Josue, Filar Arellano, Rafael Veragara, and 15 other unidentified leaders.

POLICE ARREST 37 ALLEGED M-19 GUERRILLAS

PA211941 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 2

[Excerpt] Thirty-seven alleged guerrillas of the leftist M-19, including 12 minors, were captured by the National Police after Eusebio Betancur Parra, the parish priest of the Divino Salvador Church, was forced to celebrate a mass in memory of Alvaro Fayad Delgado, the M-19 chief killed during a clash with police in Bogota.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON U.S.-LIBYAN CONFRONTATION

PY260249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0222 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Lima, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon said today that Peru is watching the situation created by the armed confrontations between the United States and Libya on the Gulf of Sidra "with concern." The Peruvian foreign minister added that his country was concerned about "the situations of tension affecting international peace and security" which continuously develop in the world.

Wagner Tizon then said that Peru was ready to offer its contribution and opinion at the appropriate forums, especially at the United Nations, in search for a solution to the crisis. The foreign minister then announced that he will travel to Contadora Island, Montevideo, and New Delhi in April.

SHINING PATH PROPAGANDA CHIEF ARRESTED

PY260205 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] Cesar Ramos Aquije, 38, alias "Camarada Mario," the Shining Path chief of propaganda, who was disguised as a street vendor to hide his real occupation, has been arrested while selling cheap goods in downtown Lima.

Detectives of the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote) have been after him for over 1 and 1/2 years, but Ramos was always able to escape because he had several identification cards bearing different names. This allowed him to travel on different occasions to the Departments of Libertad, Ancash, Huanuco, Pasco, Junin, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, and Puno, and other areas to distribute subversive literature.

Ramos Aquije joined Shining Path 6 years ago at the lowest level and was able to climb to the position of Shining Path press and propaganda chief of the Lima Metropolitan Regional Committee. Last year he was "promoted" to national chief of propaganda. Ramos Aquije installed a modern printing shop with two centers of operation. One of the centers was located at the 5-and -1/2-km point of the Carretera Central. It has not yet been established how he was able to finance the printing shop.

The police seized about 30,000 pamphlets entitled "Let Us Develop the Guerrilla War" which is the only Shining Path document. The police also confiscated thousands of posters ready for distribution in several departments where the Shining Path is operating. Ramos Aquije concealed his real identity in the last few years disguised as a poor and inoffensive street vendor who sold cheap jewelry. He frequently used that set-up to check out areas of downtown Lima and especially the area surrounding Government Palace.

NEW TERRORIST GROUP BOMBS APRA OFFICES

PY242258 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1827 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 24 Mar (EFE) -- Presumed subversives this morning attacked five offices of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party in Lima with incendiary bombs. The mayor's office reported that the attacks caused fires that were subsequently extinguished and did little danage. According to police sources, the attacks were reportedly carried out by a new subversive group calling itself the People's Guerrilla Army [Ejercito Guerrillero Popular].

IGLESIAS ON CONTADORA, TRADE, NATIONAL DEBT

PY232259 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 8

[By Roger Atwood]

[Text] Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias recently spoke with the HERALD at his office in Montevideo on a varity of topics, ranging from the Contadora group and prospects for peace in Central America to the outcome of last months' meeting of the Cartagena Consensus in Punta del Este.

He also gave Uruguay's view on CAUCE, the Uruguayan-Argentine trade accord that has come under criticism on this side of the River Plate for giving undue advantages to Uruguay, and the future of Uruguay's five billion (thousand million) dollar foreign debt.

[Atwood] At the meeting of the Contadora group last month, why didn't the foreign ministers decide to install a civilian peace commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, as they did for the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border?

[Iglesias] In the first place because Honduras and Nicaragua did not ask for the topic to be discussed. In the case of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the action was taken on a request from both countries. The problems on the two borders are very different, and creating a peace commission on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border must be the end point of a process and not the starting point in a tremendously tense situation. The peace commission (on the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican frontier) is a very important conquest and marks a starting point for concrete, joint actions of the Contadora group that seem to me highly effective.

[Atwood] What will happen to Contadora's peace efforts if the United States Congress approves President Ronald Reagan's proposal for 100 million dollars for the contras?

[Iglesias] I don't like to write history beforehand. I think we're going to see how circumstances develop, and the Contadora Group will analyze them and, on the basis of them, make decisions. But it would be a bit premature of me to anticipate actions that are changing from day to day and that depend on the circumstances which gave rise to them.

[Atwood] But what can the United States do to help the peace process in Central America?

[Iglesias] What we said in Caraballeda (where the Contadora group met late last year) is that all interested parties, not just the U.S. but also Nicaragua and other parties, begin progress on a series of simultaneous signs that allow us to foster reciprocal confidence, and on the basis of that begin with effective peace measures. Surely in the case of the U.S., stopping aid to the Contras would be a very positive sign. In the case of Nicaragua, opening national reconciliation, especially with the political parties inside Nicaragua, would be another important sign. I believe that peace is a process of positive signs that create confidence.

[Atwood] During the last Contadora meeting in Punta del Este, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Elliott Abrams said that "diplomacy is only words, but with the use of power a solution can be arrived at." Why is your response to that statement, and how did it go over at the Contadora meeting?

[Iglesias] That is the thesis that the government of the U.S. has upheld on repeated occasions. We believe that the road to peace rests fundamentally on strengthening dialogue, and it is there that we have concentrated our efforts.

[Atwood] In light of the recent meeting of the Cartagena group, how does the future look for relations between debtors and creditors?

[Iglesias] Prospects are for an inevitable, growing dialogue because problems are changing systematically every day. All this has to do directly with a political focus for the problem, which does not mean a politicalization of the problem but rather a political focus that recognizes that the solution to the debt problem rests on two fundamental variables: a drastic reduction in real interest rates, and an improvement in terms of trade. If these conditions are not forthcoming, the debt will have no solution. It might be administered, but it will not be definitively solved. In coming months, I think that we are going to stress these crucial issues, which if not forthcoming, could force some countries into very delicate situations in which they would be forced to take unilateral decisions, which no one wants at this point but which form part of the need to act in the face of circumstances. We prefer reason to force, dialogue to confrontation, and it is in that spirit that we are moving. For that reason, the future of the foreign debt will depend on what happens with these two great elements: interest rates and terms of trade.

[Atwood] Is Uruguay one of those countries that would feel itself forced to take unilateral action?

[Iglesias] Not at this time because our situation is not of that order. On the contrary, the drop in oil prices has brought us clear advantages like a considerable improvement in our balance of payments. Also, the reduction in interest rates, though modest, is also a very important point for paying our foreign debt.

[Atwood] In light of the effect of oil price drops on oil-producing debtors like Mexico and Venezuela, what are the prospects for any real Latin American unity on the debt?

[Iglesias] We have always held that Latin America has a great capacity for concentrating on the points that unite and trying to minimize the points that divide it. I believe that the debt group continues more united than ever in spite of differences. In spite of the fact that we may find ourselves in circumstantially different situations, interest rates and terms of trade are absolutely common to all countries. On these two points there is no division in Latin America, on the contrary, there is a great unity and that is what we saw in the Punta del Este message.

[Atwood] Have you detected any important change in attitude on the part of creditors with regard to the debt?

[Iglesias] There is a growing understanding on the part of creditors with respect to the nature of our problem. In recent months, bankers have shown an increasing sensitivity on the need to do more. The Baker Plan is a demonstration of that growing sensitivity, as it is a way of adding new things toward the solution of our problem. I would say that chances for dialogue are perhaps better now than before, due to the greater capacity for understanding on the part of creditors.

[Atwood] Has that greater understanding translated into any concrete changes?

[Iglesias] The Baker Plan is a first response from the creditor side. In the same way, there must be concrete measures like reducing interest rates.

[Atwood] The tone of the final statement at Punta del Este was more moderate than expected. Would you have preferred stronger language?

[Iglesias] Absolutely not. I believed we expressed ourselves in the language that we all wanted. The press may have expected something else, but what I expected was exactly this: a mechanism for consultation with Venezuela and Mexico, which were the countries that requested the meeting, and reciprocal support for them by means of that mechanism for consultation. There was no reason to expect a spectacular resolution.

[Atwood] What are the prospects for the future of the Uruguayan-Argentine trade agreement CAUCE?

[Iglesias] We believe that the CAUCE accord is a very important instrument that benefits both countries. It is based strictly on the principle of dynamic, balanced, mutually adjusted trade, and has a solid reason for being because it generates trade currents on both sides. The accord showed that last year, with an important increase in Argentine and Uruguayan exports. For that reason I am optimistic and I think it will work. Are there problems? Yes, but if there are any two countries that can have balanced, growing relations, they are Argentina and Uruguay. I believe the problem is to find ourselves at ever-higher levels than we have currently. That is the issue: It is a relation of mutual benefit. And for that reason it must be a relation that will expand.

NATIONAL PARTY NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT CABINET

PY241244 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] National Party leader Alberto Zumaran has stated that his party will not participate in the next government cabinet. He added, however, that this will not affect the intraparty agreement. Meanwhile, Uruguayan Vice President Tarigo has reported that a document seeking a solution to obtain an intraparty consensus will be issued in the next few days.

LUSINCHI REFUTES RUMORS OF PARDON FOR CUBANS

PA232223 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Caracas, 21 Mar (EFE) -- In its issue today DIARIO, a Caracas newspaper, states that Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi has refuted rumors of an alleged pardon for those charged with blowing up a Cuban plane and who have been in prison for the past 10 years. On Thursday afternoon rumors spread in Caracas regarding the release from prison of Orlando Bosch, Hernan Ricardo, and Freddy Lugo. The wife of Orlando Bosch, an anti-Castro Cuban accused of being the mastermind of this plot, went to the gate of the jail where the prisoners are being held. According to DIARIO, the Presidency's Secretariat said that one of the versions regarding a possible pardon "is not true."

The same newspaper published a statement by Justice Minister Jose Manzo Gonzalez. Minister Manzo Gonzalez refuted the rumors and said that there is a commission studying the issue of pardons; however, "there is nothing" on the case of the Cuban plane.

LIBYAN OFFICIAL SENDS MESSAGE TO CONSALVI

PA260634 Paris AFP in Spanish 0415 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Caracas, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Kamel Hussan al-Mansour, new Libyan foreign secretary, has sent a message to his Venezuelan counterpart Simon Consalvi reiterating his country's desire to consolidate the ties of friendship with Venezuela, the Foreign Ministry announced today. Hussan al-Mansour's message coincided with a heightening of hostilities between the United States and Libya following yesterday's incident in the Gulf of Sidra. However, the Foreign Ministry declined to make any comment on the matter.

Ali Sunnin Muntasir, president of the Diplomatic Institute of Foreign Liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who has been visiting Caracas since 24 March, delivered the message personally to the director general of the Foreign Ministry, German Nava. Ali Sunnin Muntasir was the first Libyan ambassador with residence in Venezuela (1971-1975). The new Libyan foreign minister was formerly oil minister and president of OPEC.

LUSINCHI NOT TO ATTEND DEBT SYMPOSIUM IN U.S.

PA221603 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p D 4

[From the "Looking at Miraflores" column by J. Lossada Rondon]

[Text] Carmelo Lauria, minister of the secretariat of the presidency, announced on 13 March that President Lusinchi will not travel to the United States, as had been reported this week. "The president has authorized me to state that his plans do not include a trip to the United States." It has been reported that the president would attend a symposium on the Latin American foreign debt to be held at the Emory University Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, on 7 and 8 April at which former Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber and Mexican Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog would also speak. It had been reported in the United States that Lusinchi was going to speak on the topic: "What Must the International Community Do To Resolve the Debt Crisis?"

DEBT PAYMENTS DEFERRED FOR SECOND TIME

FL252206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1925 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The international financial community has agreed in principle to postpone for 180 days the payment of $950 million that Mexico was to have made in the first days of April, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit has announced.

The Secretariat has reported that Mexico asked for the postponement because of the drop in its income from oil sales and the reconstruction program made necessary by last September's earthquakes. It said that because of conditions prevailing in the country, it had requested a first deferment of 180 days on 1 October 1985 and has now obtained a second postponement.

The Secretariat of Finance said that in 1983 Mexico had obtained financing of a fresh $5 billion to cover its immediate needs in the negotiations carried out by international banks in mid-1984 [dates as received]. The negotiations, he added, were formalized in 1985 to restructure about $50 billion of foreign debt. Of this loan, $250 million has already been paid, it said.

NEW MEMBER OF INTER-AMERICAN INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

PA252357 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] In Mexico City, the Finance Secretariat has reported the formal admission of Mexico and other Latin American countries into the Inter-American Investments Corporation [CII].

Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog noted in San Jose, Costa Rica, where the admission agreement was signed, that the Inter-American Investments Corporation is very important for our country.

Through the CII, small and medium enterprises will improve their role in the country's economic activity. With access to these resources, these kinds of enterprises will obtain financing under favorable conditions and terms, will satisfy their needs for capitalization, and will have the necessary technical assistance for development.

The CII was formed within the framework of the IDB meeting that will begin in San Jose, Costa Rica, tomorrow. Its creation is a result of a proposal made by IDB President Antonio Ortiz Mena in May 1979.

The CII will work as an organization affiliated with the IDB and will promote as well as participate in the investments of private enterprises of Latin America.

BRIEFS

MARIJUANA, SHIPS SEIZED -- Early today Mexican Navy members stopped Portete II, a Colombian fishing boat, apparently involved in drug trafficking activities. When it was searched, marijuana seeds and remnants of the plant were found. This boat was seized only a few hours after the Fermin II, a Mexican ship, was seized with 12 tons of marijuana on board. The Attorney General's Office has begun investigations to determine if there is any link between the two ships. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 21 Mar 86 PA]

NORIEGA INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMY, SECURITY

PA212334 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Interview with General Manual Antonio Noriega, commander of the National Defense Forces, and Colonel Leonidas Marcias, chief of the Police Force, by Televisora Nacional Director Eric Rodriguez Auerbach at the National Defense Forces Headquarters in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] [Rodriguez] First of all, we respectfully ask you to evaluate, as the commander of the National Defense Forces, these past 10 days of conflict in the country.

[Noriega] We can evaluate the crisis of these past 10 days and the strike that ended early today not as an isolated case of Panama or as a domestic matter but within the entire context of the current Latin American and world situation, in which the big financial organizations that belong to the big powers have smothered the weak economies of Latin American countries.

We have received as an inheritance the policy of indebtedness which the IMF practices. We have received as an inheritance the visible political and social strangulation by these big organizations that cound not foresee the outcome of their playing with the investments. Consequently, we are paying a high cost. Therefore, Panama is a member of that club of the strangled. Panama is not isolated. What occurred in Panama is not isolated either. This is related to the Santo Domingo incidents where there were 15 people killed. This is related to the incidents in San Salvador and the strike that is underway in Argentina. The transportation sector just declared a strike against President Alfonsin. This is part of the violence that is underway in other other Latin American countries as a result of the big stick policy of the economic organizations which put the governments in debt.

So what is occurring is an inherited crisis. Panama cannot take a stand either to give me everything or nothing. Panama is not in a position to head for political, economic, or social suicide by saying I won't pay. This is not the Panamanian reality.

Other countries may do that. Other governments may take that stand, but Panama cannot do it, and the Panamanian labor movement -- I understand all its actions and stands -- was not duly informed of all the steps of the problem. This is a collective criticism for all of us. This is a positive evaluation of negative facts.

I believe that at the end of this strike the government, as well as the political experts, the advisers, the economists, all of us, the entire government team, must meet and talk about it with the president of the Republic so that the workers can obtain basic compensations for what they lost.

We believe that this is the path now. The path of implementation must be the path of compensation. It must not be the path of division or separation. It must be a path of coordination, analysis and planning toward a new stage. We must demand that this new stage be implemented in an effective manner and in a way in which the labor movement continues to be strong as has been the main principles of this generation and revolution.

[Rodriguez] TV-2 was present at the moment when Conato [National Council of Organized Workers] announced that the strike would end at midnight. However, there was a worrisome announcement in the Conato statement when it told the country that it, as an organized labor force, was breaking ties with the government of His Excellency Eric Arturo Delvalle. How do the Armed Forces view this decision by the organized labor movement?

[Noriega] The National Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama have great respect and admiration for the historical leaders of this movement. They are leaders such as Rios, Ordonez, Meneses, Monterrey, Alvaro Munoz, Montoto, Mauro Murillo, and Prado, as well as all those leaders who are positive examples and express everything that represents Torrijism as a labor force. We respect these men very much. We also feel that they are true and intelligent leaders. This is why they are there.

History simply placed them at that crossroads where there was no other way for either their prestige or that of the labor movement. [sentence as heard] We want the government of President Delvalle to -- and he has told us that it will -- do everything possible and make every effort so this breaking-off does not happen. Why? Because there are other enemies here. The enemies aren't those who had to impose the laws. The enemies aren't the honorable legislators. The enemies aren't the men who had to go to the United States to fight [for the debt]. Therefore, the message to the workers is that there is a hidden and sly enemy who is waiting at the end of the tunnel. He is waiting for Panamanian workers to deliver to him a fait accompli on a silver platter. They are hiding as wolves in sheep's clothing, waiting to destroy the government and then destroy the labor movement. Therefore, one should not be deceived. They want to destroy President Delvalle's government because, within its origins and conditions, it is a completely progressive government that gives guarantees for the evolution of the union movement. They want to destroy them and then destroy the workers. They will first go after the president's government and then the workers, the ideological persecution, and the persecution of progressive men who led this labor movement to the place it is at right now with their prestige. We do not believe that the union movement was defeated. We do not believe that there are winners and losers here. We do not believe that the best stand is a break-off. We believe that there must be an implementation [of the laws]. We believe that there should be search for compensation within the implementation. So that the workers know that they have a friendly government they can trust.

[Rodriguez] In these past 10 days of national problems, our newscast's evaluation was that one of the aspects that affected the community the most was the acts of vandalism in some of the city streets, affecting stores, as well as the explosion of some pipe bombs. This brought much concern to the community, and we would like to know how the Panamanian Armed Forces are handling this.

[Noriega] This problem falls under the antisocial and police sector. Colonel Macias, who is in charge of the police forces, is in charge of that matter, and we know that he has all the clues. He knows who they are, and at the right moment his forces will take action. This is a problem that I want to place under police responsibility and under that of Col Macias, who runs the National Department of Investigation and the other urban security organizations.

[Rodriguez] Col Macias, could you expand on what General Noriega said?

[Macias] Yes, the security organizations in the urban area already established controls, and we are after very specific clues concerning the individuals who are placing the bombs. Regarding the vandalism in the city, we took security measures in two ways: There were demonstrations, and we felt they were honest ones which carried no violence. Violence occurred after the demonstrations, and we proceeded, after the demonstrations, to take security measures because vandalism was underway in the streets. We could not repress anyone because there were no indications to do that. Thus, we are taking control measures. We have many clues, and we are on our way to solving the problem of bombs.

[Rodriguez] Gen Noriega, we know that you participated in an interesting meeting with President Delvalle, President Monge of Costa Rica, and the president-elect [of that country]. Any comments on this relationship with a friendly and neighboring country like Costa Rica?

[Noreiga] Last night Costa Rican President Monge met with us at the David fair. He is a regular visitor to that fair. In addition, President-elect Oscar Arias was also there. He was received by our President Delvalle and within the framework of their talks they reaffirmed the historical ties between the two countries, their agreement in the search for peace, the main points of Contadora as a way for a solution, Costa Rica's need for security because of its border with a country in conflict, and the need to preserve the traditional democracy and peace of Costa Rica, which is indirectly related to Panama's peace.

As we have seen in the past few days, there have been violent acts in Costa Rica carried out by criminals. They included bank robberies carried out by foreigners: Nicaraguans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans. This confirms what we said: The immigration bomb is more explosive than violence itself. We talked about that. We talked about the concepts of unity and the border agreements. This is what we talked about basically.

[Rodriguez] We ask Noriega to summarize the country's problem at this time.

[Noriega] I want to end with a summary, because this conversation is opportune. First, I want to tell you the view of the Defense Forces regarding the adjustments to the Labor Code and the strike and its consequences. This is what we think. As an argument we must accept that there is an international reality that is adverse and directly affects the country's economy and finances. This is a truth that no one can deny.

Second, this direct effect is not the fault of the government or of Panama. The culprit is an international economic group which got the country into debt and got the Latin American countries into debt and is collecting payment for this debt now.

There is also a reality in the country: There is a lack of employment for the men and women of the country. In the past there were solutions for this: First, there was the suggestion to submit to the proposals made by international financial organizations without consulting our own realities. In other words, an effort was being made to impose another model and plan without considering the country's reality. Another solution was to leave things as they were and fight to the end keeping the status quo. That status quo was to join a club that said: We will not pay. The I-won't-pay club. But that is no solution for Panama because Panama has no other economic resource then that derived from services. This no payment club is good for other governments and realities but not for Panama's reality. Panama cannot say I won't pay.

The two solutions attacked the problems as a temporary situation only. This is the truth. The problem was tackled as a temporary situation only. We lost sight of the fact that our country has a sacred and historic duty. Let's not be deceived and fall into the trap. They want to distract our attention so that these people, these conquests, these workers, and these student movements do not reach the year 2000. They are trying to distract us so that when 1997, 1998, and 1999 comes around, Panama will not be considered able to assume responsibility for the canal.

Therefore, in view of this, we must be alert and prepared. We see that it is a historic duty for future generations and that we must reach that year 2000, that year 1999, with a generation that has paid the lowest possible social cost. This is the responsibility of today's leaders and of all men, whether they are workers, students, military men, economists, or government officials. They must all play their role in their trenches.

They must help so that in 1998 there won't be an amendment saying that Panama is not able to exercise its right of control and command of the Panama Canal. What we can be sure of is that during this difficult situation we just went through we kept the firm and indestructible political will to continue the liberating process and the Torrijist concept. That which we yielded was given up so as not to damage most of the Torrijist conquests.

Let no one be deceived into thinking that the decision we made today implies that we are abandoning the Torrijist principles. Let none of the foreign and foreign-like leaders think that we are accepting this through pressure. The decision made today has the full historical confidence of the legislators and the government group.

It is necessary that the workers, the peasants, the students, and the professionals know this, which is of the National Defense Forces' evaluation, at this point when a stage of the problems is over. This is our truth. This is our analysis which we are honestly stating. Perhaps some will not like it. Perhaps many won't agree with it. But it is not for them to agree or disagree. It is simply a military evaluation of the problem.

GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMB ATTACKS

PA251426 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 5

[Text] In a mysterious communique that arrived at our offices, the Hugo Spadafora Franco Column of the Democratic Revolutionary Front [Frente Revolucionario Democratico -- FRD] of Panama has claimed responsibility for the bombs that exploded in various places in that country recently. The group stated that the acts were prepared by its freedom commandos and that they did it because they feel that the Panamanian Government is a "corrupt dictatorship." "We will fight for a true and real justice until we place the Panamanian people on the path of truth, law, and justice." The communique ended with these slogans:

No to the dictatorship!

No to drug trafficking!

No to the murderers who are going unpunished!

"We are moving on, and we will not rest until the dictatorship disappears."

Signed by Commander Omar of the Hugo Spadafora Franco Column.

YUGOSLAV FEDERAL SECRETARY MAKES COURTESY VISIT

PA241840 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Mar 86 p 24

[Text] Milenko Bojanic, member of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade of Yugoslavia, paid a courtesy call on Minister of Agricultural Development Bruno Garisto, and they exchanged ideas on activities the two countries are carrying out in food production and technical assistance.

Following Minister Garisto's recent visit to Yugoslavia, several technical cooperation agreements were signed in the areas of agricultural mechanization, irrigation, scientific cooperation, and other types of aid that will facilitate agricultural development activities between the two countries.

Minister Garisto expressed the Panamanian Government's interest in obtaining from the Yugoslav Government a number of technical advisory services needed for the development of the agricultural sector. He said that Panama wants to continue receiving this cooperation in obtaining agricultural equipment. Panama is also interested in obtaining a secure market for our tropical products and taking advantage of our country's status as a transit and marketing zone, he said.

During the talks, the possibility was raised of Panamanian technicians travelling to Yugoslavia to receive training in several branches of agricultural production, as Yugoslavia has advanced technology and great experience in this field.

Present at the meeting were the Yugoslav Ambassador to Panama Svetislav Vujovic; Panamanian Ambassador to Yugoslavia Dr Roki Setka Sagel; the Honorable Legislators Alfredo Oranges Bustos and Pedro Brin Martinez; and other members of the Yugoslav official's retinue.

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR 'WARNED' BY PRD OFFICIAL

PA252336 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 86 p 2-A

[By Flor Quintero]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] will be alert to the actions of Ambassador Arthur Davis, Legislator Pedro Brin Martinez has informed LA PRENSA, and he also warned the U.S. diplomat not to try to apply President Reagan's interventionist policies in Panama because he will be declared persona non grata. He quoted Vienna Convention rules regarding diplomatic relations.

The statements by the PRD legislator, who is chairman of the Legislative Assembly Foreign Relations Commission, came as a result of the arrival in Panama of new U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis. Last February, Davis seriously questioned Panamanian policies during a speech he made in Washington before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

Brin Martinez clearly stated that "Should Davis ever violate diplomatic principles and rules, the PRD will ask President Delvalle to request his immediate withdrawal from Panamanian territory."

The Darien Province legislator made it clear that the "Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations prohibits ambassadors from becoming involved in the internal affairs of the governments and countries where they exercise diplomatic rights. Therefore, I believe this should be the basic principle governing Arthur Davis' mission in our country," he said.

Brin said that he was not convinced by the explanations made by the U.S. State Department because "since Davis' statements there have been similar incidents -- such as the statements made by Senator Jesse Helms -- who made comments and carried out actions that tend to demonstrate that there is no democracy in our country, that military power is above civilian power, and that in our country actions are needed to contradict the government's principles."

"If upon his arrival in Panama Davis wants to become a U.S. proconsul in Panama, we will make our warning to the national government."

In response to questions on the alleged negotiations still underway between the U.S. Government and Panama regarding political asylum for former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, Legislator Brin Martinez pointed out that "it would be illogical, absurd, and antinational to think that, after the president of the Republic issued a communique publicly stating his refusal to grant territorial asylum to Marcos, he will contradict himself and our country's principles, which are aimed at not becoming a country that sells a visa or its sovereignty to shelter a person whom the Philippine Government is calling to justice for murder and other crimes committed in that country."

CORRECTION TO ARTICLE ON CONATO SWITCH TO OPPOSITION

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Conato Leaves UNADE Parties, Joins Opposition," published in the 25 March 1986 Latin America DAILY REPORT, page N 1.

The sourceline should read: Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 7

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN APPOINTED -- Berta Torrijos de Arosemena has been appointed new ambassador to Spain. She replaces Carlos Ozores. [Summary] [Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 4 PA]

EL SALVADOR

GEN BLANDON DISCUSSES PROPOSED HOLY WEEK TRUCE

PA252306 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Mar 86

[By Rosi Castillo]

[Excerpts] [Castillo] Here is what Chief of Staff General Adolfo Blandon stated when interviewed by the YSKL news center regarding a possible Holy Week truce with the guerrillas, as the church has mentioned. He also spoke on the vigilance that will be provided by the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Blandon] First of all, I must tell you that the Armed Forces cannot talk of a truce with a group of criminals who are the ones who are taking the war and insecurity to the population. The Armed Forces have a constitutional mandate to fulfill, especially in those days that are of great significance to the population, in other words, Holy Week, Christmas, and the independence holiday. We believe that we must be active throughout the national territory with all our units, including the security forces, so that the citizens can feel safe and enjoy their well-deserved rest in this season.

I want to use this opportunity to remind the people that the terrorists do not respect any religious or civic festivity. We have very unfortunate memories of this. During Holy Week in 1983 the terrorists staged 60 terrorist acts. If I remember correctly, during Holy Week in 1984 they carried out 70, and in the 1985 Holy Week they carried out 90 terrorist actions. In view of this precedent, we do not think they plan to stop waging the war against the people. They are the ones who machine-gun the buses. They are the ones who prevent the free movement of the people on the roads. They are the ones who blow up the power lines, leaving the people without that vital service. In this Holy Week season, we have deployed many members of the Army and the security forces so that the citizens can travel to the various beaches.

[Castillo] The civilian population has told you about its problems. I know that you periodically tour the country's municipalities and departments. Have they told you of their problems as they have done with the church? These problems include the bombing of the civilian population, who then abandon their crops. Have they told the Armed Forces about this problem?

[Blandon] Yes, I would say that it is one of the most serious problems that the Armed Forces are trying to solve through the "United To Rebuild" counterinsurgency campaign. One of its main objectives is to have the people return to their places of origin, not to live in hideouts or in fear, but to have them return to their homes, to cultivate the land, and take care of their animals. In this way we will be able to reactivate the entire country as soon as possible. It has been charged that we are forcing the people to abandon their homes. That is not true. Instead, we are providing greater security to them so that they can live peacefully in their homes. We have already begun to do this in the Guazapa area. We are also providing a lot of help in the Tenancingo area. Regarding the charges of bombings, this is, above all, propaganda by the subversives who are trying to discredit the Air Force, which is causing a great deal of damage to them. Some months ago they extended that propaganda campaign to some rapid deployment units. This is because the terrorists are experiencing very difficult times, especially in the area of morale, and they have no other recourse but to stage sabotage actions. To be exact, last year, after carrying out a large number of air missions, I remember only the case in Chalatenango where, due to an error, a bomb fell on the house of a family.

The Air Force commander went there and paid the indemnification to the family, and their house was rebuilt. I also remember the case of Tenancingo where we must admit that an error was committed. However, if we take into account that we have had more than 5 years of war, and if we bear in mind the type of war we are waging, in my view, two cases are insignificant.

[Castillo] General, in Honduras it has been reported that the Salvadoran insurgents are being helped through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and that weapons have been found. In addition, the Salvadoran Armed Forces have found large amounts of Salvadoran Red Cross medicine in caches. What is your comment on this?

[Blandon] From press reports I have learned that in Honduras, near the Colomoncagua refugee camp, a large amount of explosives, weapons, and ammunition were found. The most significant aspect is that for the first time Soviet-made weapons were found in a hideout. The rifles found in the Colomoncagua area were AK rifles. According to the Honduran press, the gentlemen of the UNHCR have some responsibility in the arms traffic in that area. I imagine that the Honduran Government must right now be carrying out thorough investigations to find out who is responsible and how those weapons are entering Honduran territory. Some of them are destined for El Salvador, but probably a large percentage are staying in Honduran territory, and the respective authorities have to be very careful about this.

[Castillo] What about the medicines that are reported to belong to the Salvadoran Red Cross and that have been found in caches in El Salvador? How many caches have the the Armed Forces found so far?

[Blandon] In just the Guazapa area, we have found 228 caches and in eastern Chalatenango where the Lieutenant Chavez Carrena Operation is being carried out, we had found 72 caches up to yesterday. We have found all types of foreign-made medicine. In some cases, we have found medicine with the Red Cross seal but this is a difficult case because the Red Cross provides medical attention and medicine to the civilian population, and it is hard to distinguish whether a person is a terrorist [solely because he has Red Cross medicine]. Only if that person carried a weapon could one tell whether he is a terrorist. Those are the difficult cases for the Red Cross because they do not know who is a terrorist. That is a difficult situation.

Prelate on Cease-Fire

PA260435 San Salvador Channel 2 Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, has commented on the Holy Week truce.

[Begin recording] [Rivera y Damas] The war, the violence have been taken to great extremes, but I supposed that with the Christian convictions they have that on Good Friday there would be a cease-fire. However, with the experience we had in December, I did not want to talk about the truce anymore. I have appealed to the deepest feelings in the Salvadoran's hearts, asking them to respect Good Friday.

[First unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] after hearing of the military counterinsurgency operations, what about the church's firm promise to offer spiritual guidance to the residents of that area? How has the original plan changed?

[Rivera y Damas] The original plan has changed because the list of refugees presented, in my opinion, does not coincide with the list I had announced during my homily last Sunday.

[Second unidentified reporter] It is said that the church is dislodging the refugees from the shelters. How true is this, and what is the objective?

[Rivera y Damas] It is true. It was an emergency measure. The shelters cannot be too permanent because instead of being educational they become uneducational. [end recording]

FMLN COMMUNIQUE REJECTS IDEA OF 'UNILATERAL TRUCE'

PA260129 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Communique released by the FMLN's General Command on 25 March 1986; read by unidentified speaker]

[Text] Taking into consideration the church's public appeal for a Holy Week truce, the FMLN has reasserted the willingness for this truce, provided this is publicly announced and agreed to by the two sides. Our front has been awaiting an answer from the government and the Armed Forces to determine whether or not to proceed with the truce. During the recent Christmas and New Year festivities, the general staff and Duarte pledged with the church to agree to a truce. Not only did the Army units violate the truce, but most of the garrison commanders publicly voiced their rejection of and disagreement with Duarte and the High Command. All of our people witnessed this, and the news was disseminated throughout the world.

Despite all this, the FMLN's willingness for peace and respect for our people's tradition has led us to consider making arrangements for a new truce, provided the accords are are made public. Both Duarte and the High Command responded negatively to the Church's request for a truce. Duarte even denied that such a proposal had been made. Similarly, bombings against and the dislodgement of civilians have been stepped up. In the specific case of Chalatenango, Duarte and the High Command did not let the church officiate in Arcatao during Holy Week. Quite the contrary, government forces have continued to destroy plantations and homes and captured more than 200 civilians. These facts also are in the public domain. Msgr Rivera y Damas had announced that religious offices would be held during these days in this area. This again makes it clear that the government and the Armed Forces do not want peace and, therefore, do not share our people's banners, but oppose democratic and economic interest and the aspirations for peace of the great majorities. Durate's and the High Command's refusal to accept a truce again reaffirms their desperation as the result of the revolutionary advance that leads them to clash with the people in all sectors and lose all ability for political moves, since now even Duarte has been forced to assume gorilla-like stances in opposition to the role that the Yankees have assigned him.

Because of this, and considering that the Army has continued its bombings and operations against the civilian population -- this is evident and publicly acknowledged both here and abroad -- the FMLN announces:

1. We are not willing to grant any unilateral truces.

2. A truce could occur only if it is agreed upon and publicly announced by the two sides. Therefore, our forces will continue their operational plans previously drafted.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

El Salvador, 25 Mar 1986

HONDURAS

TENSION CONTINUES OVER ALLEGED SANDINIST INCURSION

Press Secretary Interviewed

PA251825 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1615 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview with Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Presidency, by Rodrigo Wong Arevalo in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] [Wong] Washington is insisting that Honduras has been invaded by more than 1,500 Sandinist soldiers. We have gotten in touch with Lisandro Quezada, government press secretary. Lisandro, what do you think of this situation? Washington is obstinately saying that Honduras has been invaded by 1,500 Sandinist soldiers and that President Azcona Hoyo reportedly asked for $20 million in military aid for Honduras. If that were true, one would practically have to admit that Honduras is at war with Nicaragua.

[Quezada] Well, I must tell you that at this time the foreign secretary and General Regalado, commander of the Armed Forces, are meeting at the government house, analyzing the news from the United States. At this time the government does not have reliable reports that the Sandinist troops have invaded our country. I think there is confusion. If such an invasion were true, our Armed Forces have the capacity to repel any aggression.

[Wong] Listen Lisandro, we are worried about this because all the reports are coming from Washington. Here in Honduras you have given a version that seems to make sense to us. These reports about a Sandinist invasion of Honduras appear more the result of a publicity maneuver to support the position of President Reagan, who is obstinately trying to obtain $100 million to aid the counterrevolutionaries. In Honduras our correspondents, our people, and even the Army have not spoken about an invasion of 1,500 Sandinist soldiers.

[Quezada] If there were such an invasion, it would be an aggression. If there were an aggression, the Army would immediately react and respond to it. Now then, it makes sense to think that President Reagan, as a great democrat and being concerned about the interference of nondemocratic political systems in the Central American region, wants to obtain that aid for the contras who are fighting totalitarianism in their country. That idea is acceprable in President Reagan. We think he is struggling to help in this situation and that he is resorting to these propaganda measures.

[Wong] Now then, don't you think that President Azcona's seriousness is being placed in doubt when it is said in Washington that President Reagan has received a Honduran request for $20 million in military aid to fight against Nicaragua?

[Quezada] Yes, but President Azcona has not asked for such aid, at least not in the past 2 days when these reports have come out. If he had asked for it, he would have no reason to conceal this from the Honduran people. A request for help from a friendly and allied country would be an act of sovereignty. The truth is that President Reagan is extremely worried about the political situation in Central America where two totally opposed ideologies confront each other. They are democracy and totalitarianism. In his struggle to eradicate totalitarianism, he unquestionably has to involve us in his campaign or his strategy to obtain aid for the contras.

[Wong] Lisandro, have we or have we not been invaded by 1,000 or 1,500 Sandinist soldiers?

[Quezada] No, we have not been invaded.

[Wong] Why then hasn't the Honduran Government categorically denied such reports? The Security Council met last night, and it did not even issue a bulletin about this. If we have been invaded, we should admit it, and we would already be at war with Nicaragua. If we have not been invaded, why isn't this stated?

[Quezada] The problem is that the Armed Forces are doing everything within their means to thoroughly investigate what is taking place in that region on the border with Nicaragua. However, the fact that the government and the Armed Forces remain completely calm and are calmly looking into this indicates that we are not really at war with Nicaragua.

[Wong] Is the Security Council meeting this morning?

[Quezada] The foreign secretary and Gen Regalado are meeting.

[Wong] But that isn't the Security Council. They are just officials. The Security Council is headed by the president of the Republic.

[Quezada] It includes all the commanders of the branches of the Armed Forces.

[Wong] That is right. It is being said in Washington that the National Security Council is meeting right now, waiting to see what will be the reply to President Reagan's urgent request for $20 million in military aid for Honduras.

[Quezada] Listen, as I said, only Gen Regalado and the foreign secretary are meeting. They have probably been delegated to discuss this matter. Perhaps at the end of their meeting, the foreign secretary will have something to state.

[Wong] Where are they meeting?

[Quezada] Here in the presidential house.

[Wong] According to the reports from Washington, we are practically already close to war with Nicaragua. This is sad because this is not taking place in Honduras. There is a terrible and harmful image of Honduras in Washington.

[Quezada] It definitely hurts us because any provocation of that nature that disrupts peace essentially affects our economy. We cannot prevent that disinformation about our country. But you can see that all our Armed Forces are calm. There are no planes, helicopters, tanks or anything that indicates that we are at war. There is no general mobilization of the citizens. There is no alert by the civil defense. In short, no signs that a war exists. We already had the 1969 experience, and you must remember how it was. I imagine you must have waged your battle from your trench, right?

[Wong] That is right. When there is a conflict, the news media feels it. So then, why is it being said in Washington that there is a war? If President Reagan wants to obtain money for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, why is he getting Honduras involved?

[Quezada] This is my personal view. I think that President Reagan has to in some way justify that aid for the contras, and the way to justify it is by saying that our country can be used as a base for the supply of weapons and other logistics support for the contras. If there were no friendly or allied country that lends itself for this purpose, then I think it very unlikely that the Senate would vote for the Reagan motion.

[Wong] President Reagan is taking advantage of this type of circumstance. The U.S. Senate apparently meets today to begin debating the aid that the President has requested for the counterrevolution. However, I think that all the Honduran people who are listening to these reports... [changes thought] Here we ask the colleagues in the other stations not to alarm the people because it is not true that the Sandinists have invaded the Honduran territory. This is a publicity trick that is being used by President Reagan to impress the Senate that today begins to debate that aid. He began to lose that battle when the House of Representatives refused to grant him authorization.

[Quezada] I was just going to ask you to issue a call for calm so that there will be no alarm in the country. You know that if our country went to war with any country, we would not be waging that war just with our regular soldiers. There would be others who would immediately be asked to be involved. They would first of all be the journalists like you, who in 1969 kept the country's morale high. As far as I know you haven't received any message in that regard, right?

[Wong] None, Lisandro. We have just received the alarming reports from Washington that say that Honduras has asked for $20 million in military aid. If that were true we would have to admit that Honduras is at war with Nicaragua. That is not true. There is no war mobilization here. There has been no massive invasion of 1,500 Sandinists. We have to admit that in an abusive manner, the Sandinists enter Honduran territory when they pursue the counterrevolutionaries. That has already become routine because they enter pursuing the contras and then go back. This has become routine. It is true that this is a violation of sovereignty because under no excuse do the Sandinists have the right to enter our territory.

[Quezada] Just as the contras do not have the right.

[Wong] Just as the contras do not have the right. We have stated that the presence of the counterrevolutionaries is a problem and causes difficulty for Honduras.

[Quezada] It causes difficulty, but as you know in those border situations when there is that type of controversy, it is inevitable that those pursued and those doing the pursuing will enter and leave the territory of both countries. Therefore, one cannot determine when they enter Honduran territory and when they are in Nicaraguan territory. That depends on the clashes between both sides.

[Wong] Lisandro, we ask the government, your office, that when the meeting ends that an official bulletin be issued to clarify the situation on the border and to explain the Honduran position. It could be that Honduras supports President Reagan in his plan to obtain $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. However, this does not mean that false rumors about things that are not taking place in Honduras should be spread. For example, that there is an invasion of 1,500 Sandinist soldiers in Honduras, something that is not taking place.

[Quezada] Well, you are right. We are unquestionably democrats, and we share President Reagan's enthusiasm about having the democratic cause prevail in Central America. However, this does not mean that we have to endure these things.

We will try to see if the foreign secretary, as spokesman of the National Security Council, will issue a bulletin so that the citizens can remain calm.

[Wong] It is a matter of what is best for the country. The Honduran people are now close to a vacation period, to a time of spiritual retreat, to a time of rest. Therefore, the people should not be alarmed about things that are not taking place. Now then, if there is a Sandinist invasion, then let it be announced so that the people can be alerted and warned.

[Quezada] I completely agree with you.

[Wong] I apologize for asking for this interview in such a hasty manner, but we have been listening to reports that are not true. This morning we have been in touch with our correspondents and if there had been a massive Sandinist invasion, the government would have already had to report to the people to confirm or deny it.

[Quezada] I cannot conceive that we were being invaded and that we would not immediately proceed to defend the national sovereignty. That would be unthinkable. That is why those reports from abroad are just the result of confusion and disinformation.

[Wong] Thank you, Lisandro. We hope that at the end of the meeting there will be a bulletin explaining things to the Honduran public.

[Quezada] I will try to get in touch with the foreign secretary so that he will issue a statement.

Communique Confirms Incursion

PA251726 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Press communique issued by the Honduran Government; no date given, read by Press Secretary Lisandro Quezada at the Presidential Palace -- live]

[Text] The Honduran Government has received confirmed reports that in the eastern border region, in the Olancho Department, new incursions by the Sandinist People's Army into Honduran territory have occurred.

In order to control the situation, the government of the Republic has ordered the deployment of forces to that sector with instructions to protect the people and repel the Sandinist troops violating the country's territory.

Since it is an area of difficult access by land and in view of the urgent need for the presence of local forces in the area that the Sandinist forces have entered, we have obtained the necessary support from the U.S. Government in order to airlift Honduran troops. All of this has been done in line with the special security relation existing between the two countries.

In addition, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has addressed the Nicaraguan Government, urging it to order the immediate withdrawal of its troops to prevent clashes that may threaten peace between the two countries and once again jeopardize the regional peaceful efforts sponsored by the Contadora Group.

For its part, Honduras will continue to resort to every peaceful means and the various international organizations to overcome the Central American crisis.

The Honduran people can be certain that the government and its Armed Forces are handling this situation with caution and calm, but with the determination needed. Consequently, there cannot be any unjustified alarm or concern.

Quezada Responds to Press

PA251923 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Press conference by Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Presidency, with unidentified reporters at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] Lawyer Lisandro Quezada, why is it that the government officials who participated in the Security Council meeting will not make any statements?

[Quezada] The communique I have just read is practically what they would tell the Honduran people.

[Reporter] What evidence was used as a basis for confirming that there are Sandinist troops in Honduras?

[Quezada] The government has its own mechanisms to gather this kind of information.

[Reporter] When did the Sandinist incursion occur?

[Quezada] The report states only that there was in fact an incursion at the eastern border region in Olancho Department. However, it does not say exactly when the Sandinist troops entered.

[Reporter] Have there been any casualties?

[Quezada] So far we have no reports on casualties, only that there was an incursion.

[Reporter] How many troops.... [another reporter interrupts in background]

[Quezada] They are U.S. planes [transportes aereos], based on the treaty on economic cooperation and military assistance signed by the two countries in 1954.

[Reporter] How many soldiers have been sent to that area?

[Quezada] No, the report does not mention that, it states only that there has been a mobilization of troops. As you can understand, this is a confidential matter within the Security Council.

[Reporter] Has the Presidential Palace made the first contact with the Nicaraguan Government?

[Quezada] At this time the Foreign Secretariat is sending a note to the Nicaraguan Government, protesting the presence of Sandinist troops in our territory.

[Reporter] Would Azcona be willing to discuss the matter with the Nicaraguan president?

[Quezada] I cannot answer that question.

[Reporter] What will happen if the Nicaraguan Government denies the presence of Nicaraguan troops in Honduras?

[Quezada] We cannot tell the Nicaraguan Government what to do.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] assistance or aid from the U.S. Army will further aggravate the conflict between the two nations in view of the act that it comes from an extra-regional power?

[Quezada] No, remember that the aid is being requested within the framework of the security relations between the two countries. In other words, specifically, the request for aid is based on the agreements on economic cooperation and military assistance signed between the United States and our country in 1954, which regulates the joint maneuvers between the two armies.

[Reporter] When will the United Nations and the OAS learn of the Honduran protest?

[Quezada] The Foreign Secretariat is currently using all the adequate channels and instruments to inform the world of the violation of our national territory by Sandinist troops who have crossed our northern border.

[Station announcer] There is one more question on the violation of our national territory by the contras. Let us hear the reply from the press secretary.

[Quezada] No, our territory is not being used as a base for any military force. Our troops and U.S. troops -- whose entrance was approved by the National Congress 2 years ago -- are the only troops that can be legally in our country without violating our sovereignty.

Azcona, Commanders Meet

PA251729 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1713 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] At this time President Jose Azcona is meeting with Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras at his office. It is also reported that top military commanders of the Honduran Armed Forces are also participating in the meeting. The issues being discussed at the meeting are unknown.

Meeting Ends

PA251810 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1735 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Report by Douglas Membreno from the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa -- live telephone relay]

[Text] [Membreno] Radio America listeners, the meeting President Jose Azcona held with General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces, and Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras for almost 2 hours has just ended.

It was reported that at this meeting they discussed aspects concerning the recent incursions of Nicaraguan troops into Honduran territory. However, none of the officials who participated in this important meeting dared give any statements, apparently because of the delicate nature of the situation and for security reasons.

However, Radio America obtained some small details of conversation with Regalado.

[Unidentified reporter] This is true, Membreno. We tried to approach Gen Regalado Hernandez to ask him about the fact that after a first meeting Azcona summoned the Armed Forces commander and Lopez Contreras and they returned to his office. After this second meeting we tried to talk with Regalado Hernandez who said that everything had been said. He noted that the press communique was thorough and clear about the Honduran situation. However, he confirmed that by orders of the president and the top military command, troops have been sent to the border area in conflict. He said that people don't have to be alarmed and that these are situations that occur but that Honduras is handling the situation calmly. He said that he does not foresee that there will be confrontations between the two Armies. But he added that the people in the area in conflict will be protected, especially in El Paraiso Department and part of Olancho Department where the areas of conflict are located.

This has been ordered after international dispatches stated that counterrevolutionaries tried to enter Nicaraguan territory and the Sandinist People's Army repelled the attack. In this regard, Regalado Hernandez said that the Honduran Army is on alert. He noted that there is a mobilization under way but he did not specify how many men were sent to the border.

He also said that next week, after the Holy Week period, if circumstances do not permit it [as heard], they will issue a communique from the top military command on the deployment of troops on the border and what they are doing. But we will limit ourselves to what has been said through the communique read at the presidential house and which Radio America aired to the public.

Nicaraguan Envoy 'Recalled'

PA251855 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1828 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] We have a last-minute report. Radio America is in a position to confirm, by virtue of a contact we made with the Nicaraguan Embassy several minute ago, that Nicaraguan Ambassador Danilo Abud Diaz has been recalled by his government to Nicaragua. His departure was set to take place this week, as leave during the Easter holidays. However, as a result of the developments reportedly taking place on the border, specifically in the east and in Olancho Department, the Nicaraguan ambassador might leave tomorrow.

NICARAGUA REPORTEDLY DOWNS ARMY HELICOPTER

PA251816 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Live report by Jose Mairena Tercero]

[Text] The public relations officer of the Armed Forces, Major Arguello, has just confirmed that a Honduran helicopter has been shot down by Sandinist anti-aircraft artillery. The helicopter crashed in Honduran territory, and it is believed that it was shot down in our own territory. It is not yet known how many Honduran soldiers were in the helicopter or if there were any officers on board.

The Public Relations Office told us it would tell us as soon as it had all the details of this incident that took place approximately 30 minutes ago along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon urgently reported that Lieutenant General Galvin, chief of the Southern Command, will be arriving this afternoon in Tegucigalpa to intervene directly and see what the Honduran Government needs right now for the war, as this is practically a Honduran-Nicaraguan war. [sentence as heard]

Military Denies Downing

PA2519O1 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1811 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Concerning a report by our fellow worker Mairena Tercero concerning the downing of a helicopter, we have contacted the chief of the Armed Forces Public Relations Office, Major Arguello, to avoid this type of speculation. Apparently another radio station has said that a Honduran helicopter had been shot down by Sandinist infantry troops, but we want to ask the official Armed Forces spokesman if this is true. Did an attack against a Honduran plane take place a few minutes ago, Maj Arguello?

[Arguello] Right now we do not have any official report on that situation. Actually, we are conducting the necessary investigations to determine what is happening in our country. To prevent speculation, the Press and Information Office of the Presidency has issued a bulletin. It is somewhat brief, but it has valuable information. Also, it is important to bear in mind that the Armed Forces are alert to any situation that might endanger our people or country.

[Reporter] Major, then there has not been any attack in recent hours against a Honduran aircraft?

[Arguello] Right now we have no knowledge to that effect.

[Reporter] Apparently there was another report a few days ago, but this was not confirmed either.

[Arguello] That is right. About 6 to 7 days ago there was a similar report, but nothing was confirmed.

[Reporter] Well, apparently, there was a rumor to the effect that a Honduran helicopter had been attacked in the border area by Sandinist soldiers who fired upon the aircraft that was flying over the sovereign territorial skies of Honduras. This rumor spread, but if you say that you have no official report to this effect, then the Armed Forces have no reports that this has taken place.

[Arguello] That is right. If at any time of the day or night, or during the weekend hours, we have any reports, we will give you that report if it is official, because it is very important so the Honduran people will feel calm. Rest assured that your Armed Forces are on the alert and fulfilling their sacred duties of safeguarding the sovereignty of our national territory.

[Reporter] Maj Arguello, the government communique read a few minutes ago by the press secretary, Lisandro Quezada, said that the Honduran Government was mobilizing troops to the border with the help of the U.S. Government to prevent any attack against our sovereignty. Could we know how many soldiers the Honduran Government has mobilized to the border?

[Arguello] The truth is that I cannot give you this type of information, because you know that some of these things are national security issues. We would be supplying the enemy specific information on movements that we are conducting and which we are entitled to do because it is the sovereign right of our country.

[Reporter] That is OK, Major. Thank you for your confirmation. In other words, neither the Public Relations Office of the Armed Forces nor the Armed Forces has any information on an attack against a Honduran helicopter. Thank you for speaking to Radio America in order to confirm this report that had been learned by some media.

[Arguello] Thank you. I wish to confirm that our doors are always open to cooperate with you, and I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to tell the Honduran people to rest assured that the Armed Forces are always concerned over any situation that might endanger the tranquillity of Honduras and its people. Let us hope this Holy Week will be a time so all will rest.

U.S. DONATES $20 MILLION FOR TROOP TRANSPORTATION

PA251952 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1854 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] [Station announcer] Much attention, listeners from throughout the Republic, in statements made to the international press at noon today at the Presidential Palace, the press secretary of the Honduran Government, officially acknowledged that the U.S. Government, that is the U.S. Congress, today approved $20 million for the transportation of Honduran troops to the Nicaraguan border area. Douglas Membreno has more details from our news center.

[Membreno] Radio America listeners, Companero Elan Reyes got the exclusive statements made for the international press by Press Secretary Attorney Lisandro Quezada. It was confirmed that approximately 40 million lempiras, $20 million, will be earmarked for the transportation of Honduran troops to be deployed to the Nicaraguan border in Olancho Department where the incursion of Sandinist troops on Honduran soil was confirmed. Companero Elan Reyes is here with the report.

[Reyes] Yes, Douglas, at this time we also confirm that this interview was granted to the CBS Network. The press secretary said that the military aid at this moment consists only of planes to urgently transport Honduran soldiers that might be transported to the conflict area. He said that there is a strict order to repel any Sandinist incursion on Honduran territory. However, at this moment, they do not know the number of Honduran soldiers already transported to the conflict area. We will now listen to the statements made by the press secretary to the CBS Network received by the Government House: [recorded passage indistinct]

Troops Sent to Border

PA260035 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2324 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (DPA) -- Today Honduras sent an undisclosed number of troops to the border with Nicaragua to repel the Sandinist Army invasion of its territory, official sources reported in Tegucigalpa. The troop mobilization was carried out with the help of U.S. military vehicles, according to a communique read by Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the president, who added that this is the first time that Honduras has requested U.S. assistance to face a Nicaraguan "invasion."

To request U.S. assistance for the transportation of its troops, Honduras based its petition on the economic and military aid agreements with the United States, Guezada explained. He also said that "Honduras will continue to seek other peaceful means at different international forums, to solve the Central American crisis."

Meanwhile, at the Presidential Palace in Tegucigalpa it was confirmed that "President Jose Azcona has not asked President Ronald Reagan for military aid to repel the Nicaraguan troops," a clear denial of versions released in Washington about President Reagan ordering $20 million in military aid for Honduras, "requested by Azcona."

NICARAGUAN ENVOY CALLS FOR BORDER COMMISSION

PA260138 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2345 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Telephone interview by Danilo Abud Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, with unidentified reporter; place not given -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion of the reports from Washington which, in a way, have been confirmed by the Honduran Government?

[Abud Vivas] I want to address myself to the Honduran Government and people to state that the Nicaraguan Government is interested in clarifying these alleged incursions by the EPS into Honduran territory and to establish for once and for all Nicaragua's respect for Honduras' territorial integrity and sovereignty. We are asking the Contadora Group to form an inspection and verification commission that can come at once to the common border to verify that there has been no EPS incursion into Honduran territory, thus demonstrating that those who enter Honduran territory and also Nicaraguan territory are the Somozist groups at the service of the United States.

In this regard, we must also respond to the note that the Honduran Foreign Ministry issued today in response to this alleged incident. We are also urging the Honduran Government to support this Nicaraguan initiative to bring the peace that our people in the border areas are demanding, thus making it clear that there has been no violation of Honduran territory by Nicaraguan troops.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, has this request already been made in Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama?

[Abud Vivas] Exactly. Just 30 minutes ago the request was made of the countries that form the Contadora Group, and I hope that within approximately 1/2 hour I will also have a response to the note that we sent to the Honduran Government, in which -- as I said -- we stated Nicaragua's interest in having Honduras support its initiative in order to bring the peace needed by our people.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, at the presidential house there was a sort of rumor today that you have been called by your government to Managua.

[Abud Vivas] I am grateful to you for that question because I am interested in explaining this. I heard the reports today on local radio station, and there is no truth to them. I had planned to take my Holy Week vacation in the interior of Nicaragua and to handle this case as seriously as it merits. Nicaragua wants to clarify that these reports are not true.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, Commander Dora Maria Tellez said yesterday that Nicaragua is willing to receive arms, regardless of where they come from, because arms are not ideological or political. What do you say about this?

[Abud Vivas] This is the official position of the Nicaraguan Government. We have always insisted on our right to defend ourselves, and while there is a foreign aggression against Nicaragua we will implement this right to request resources and technical military equipment to guarantee our defense, our territorial integrity, and our nationality.

[Reporter] Mr Ambassador, Tip O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, will be in Caracas tomorrow. Will he be invited to come to the Honduran-Nicaraguan border?

[Abud Vivas] I repeat that this initiative has been requested of the Contadora Group and the Support Group. It is up to the Latin American group to decide if the want to include other sectors. We prefer to have this problem solved by Latin Americans and not include sectors foreign to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Ambassador.

900 SANDINST TROOPS REPORTED 'TRAPPED'

PA260625 Paris AFP in Spanish 0531 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Some 900 EPS troops are surrounded in Honduran territory and cannot leave or receive assistance, the city newspaper LA TRIBUNA reported today, based on reports from the city of Danli, El Paraiso Department. The report, attributed to a reliable source, was confirmed by two peasants coming from the region of Capire in the remote region of Arenales, 240 km east of this capital, who arrived in Danli, the principal border city, today.

The sources, according to the report, claimed that the Sandinist soldiers are virtually trapped in the vicinity of Espanol Grande, Arenales sector, some 6 km from the border with Nicaragua. It was precisely in that sector where the Sandinist troops made an incursion, the sources indicated, and not in any border region of Olancho Department north of El Paraiso, as the government house had reported. The presence of the EPS troops in that region was confirmed to AFP by a reliable source in this capital, who indicated that they are some 8 to 10 km north of the sector known as Las Vegas, El Paraiso.

The sources explained to LA TRIBUNA that the Sandinist penetration occurred between Friday and Saturday, taking advantage of the fact that during those days the Honduran military presence in the region was reduced when troops were relieved last week, according to official sources.

However, when the Sandinists entered Arenales an insurgent column surrounded them while the Honduran Army reinforcements hemmed them in, according to the sources. The situation of the Nicaraguan troops "is very delicate, they noted, because they cannot leave without the risk of being killed unless they surrender, nor can they be aided from Nicaragua."

COMMUNITY LEADERS REPORT EPS-CONTRA BATTLES

PA251433 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1205 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Sandinists and counterrevolutionaries have clashed in Honduran territory.

The clashes took place in Espanol Grande, an area of Arenales, about 6 km from the border. Community leaders of the Arenales area have reported that fierce battles have been waged between Nicaraguan insurgent forces and EPS troops in Honduran territory. The battles have place in Espanol Grande village in the area of Arenales, 6 km from the Nicaraguan border and 238 km southeast of Tegucigalpa, the sources reported.

According to the community leaders, the battles began on Saturday and continued all day Sunday. The source [as heard] expressed fear about possible reprisals because he reported this, but he said that the situation has worsened because the battles on the border have been intense in the last few days and the civilian population has continued its exodus to the interior of the country.

The situation of Las Trojes, 48 km from Espanol Grande, is also one of uneasiness because the sound of gunfire along the border can be heard there, our source said. The community leader said he had seen several North Americans in the area of Arenales who were traveling in vehicles. Residents of the area have noticed frequent visits by North Americans who travel in private vehicles carrying food and clothing to the contras.

Meanwhile, there has been no mobilization of the Honduran Army in the Paraiso region. According to military sources, there has just been routine relief. Since September 1985, the Armed Forces mobilized the 9th Battalion to provide vigilance from El Pedregalito to (El Tablazo) along the El Paraiso border as a result of the residents' request for greater Honduran military presence to guarantee their tranquillity.

New Incursions in Olancho

PA252330 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2250 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Honduran Government has received confirmed information from the [word indistinct] border post, Olancho Department, that new EPS incursions into Honduran territory have occurred. In an attempt to control the situation, the Honduran Government has ordered the deployment of troops to those areas to protect the people and repel the Nicaraguan troops that are violating our national territory. Since access by land to this area is extremely difficult, and in view of the urgent need to deploy the troops to this area, the U.S. Government has been asked, and it has supplied, the necessary means to air transport the troops to the area. This was done in accordance to the special security [word indistinct] existing between the two countries.

At the same time, the Honduran Foreign Secretariat has addressed the Nicaraguan Government urging them to order the immediate withdrawal of their troops and prevent confrontations that could endanger the peace between the two countries and further hinder the peacemaking efforts being made by the Contadora Group.

EPS Suffers 100 Casualties

PA260055 Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Reliable sources in this capital told AFP that the EPS has suffered more than 100 casualties during clashes with Nicaraguan insurgents in southern Honduras.

According to the sources, "heavy clashes, with a considerable number of casualties suffered by the two sides, continued" in the area of Arenales, Paraiso Department, about 15 km from the Nicaraguan border and 240 km from Tegucigalpa, today at 1600 local time.

Local residents have reported that the clashes between insurgents and EPS troops began Saturday. A diplomatic source in Tegucigalpa said that "heavy fighting is occuring in Honduras. From a military viewpoint, this is a very serious situation." The source indicated that in the deployment of Honduran troops to the border with Nicaragua, announced by the Presidential Palace at noon, U.S. helicopters of the type used during the joint Honduras-U.S. exercises are being utilized.

TWO INJURED BY SANDINIST MINE IN BORDER TOWN

PA251617 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1512 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By Choluteca correspondent Juan Ramon Aguilare]

[Text] Two Hondurans were seriously injured when they stepped on a mine. Hondurans Armando Merlo and Emilio Zepeda, who were in the Las Guasaules border village in El Triunfo jurisdiction, stepped on a field mined by Nicaraguans. The mine destroyed the right leg [words indistinct] of Emiliano Zepeda who are hospitalized in the Southern hospital. This shows the Sandinist disrespect of Honduran territory.

PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE IN ACCIDENT; AZCONA UNHURT

PA260001 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By David Romero]

[Excerpts] Approximately 20 minutes ago President Jose Azcona's motorcade was involved in an accident. The president and his family were traveling from Tegucigalpa to Puerto Cortes. Near Potrerillos, Cortes, a speeding fuel truck forced the motorcade to the side of the road. Several of President Azcona's bodyguards were slightly injured. We wish to report that President Azcona and his family were not injured. However, two police cars were hit by the fuel truck. One of the cars turned over several times before it crashed into a gully. The bodyguards were slightly injured. The car in which President Azcona was traveling was also hit by the fuel truck, which was carrying fuel to Tegucigalpa. It is believed that speeding was the cause of the accident; however, some believe that the accident could have been avoided. It is not known whether the fuel truck driver fell asleep at the wheel before it hit the motorcade.

CORRECTION TO NICARAGUAN MINISTER'S INTERVIEW

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Nicaraguan Minister on Charge," published in the 25 March Latin America DAILY REPORT on Page P 5:

Sourceline should read: Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 0115 GMT 25 Mar 86

NICARAGUA

FORMATION OF BORDER COMMISSION REQUESTED

PA260225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0107 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist government has asked the Contadora Group to form a vigilance and inspection commission that would operate at the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

The request was presented after an alleged raid by 1,500 Sandinist soldiers and the deployment of Honduran combat troops to the border with Nicaragua was announced in Washington and Tegucigalpa. The Sandinist Army, however, denied this raid and reported that about 600 contras were repelled from a border area on 10, 11, and 12 March and forced to flee to Honduras.

Jose Leon Talavera, one of the two deputy foreign ministers, has asked Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia -- which form the Contadora Group -- and Peru, Argentine, Brazil, and Venezuela -- which form the Support Group -- to organize a border vigilance commission. This request aims at putting an end to the armed anti-Sandinist centers at the border, which use Honduran territory for their camps, according to charges by Managua. During a press conference tonight, Talavera stressed the "calm" with which the Honduran Government has been handling the situation at the border.

In turn, Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister Joaquin Cuadra told Radio Sandino that the Sandinist Army repelled 600 contras who raided the border area of Teotecacinte in the country's north. The military leader said that the contras penetrated Nicaraguan territory in six 100-man columns "with the intention of propagandizing the approval of the $100 million" that the U.S. Congress currently discusses.

The deputy minister said that the violent clashes occurred 11, 12, and 13 March. Cuadra also said that the clashes took place in Nicaraguan territory, but he did not indicate the number of casualties. He said that the anti-Sandinists fled to the mountains in an effort to reach Honduran territory.

Quoted by Radio Sandino, the officer also denied that government troops have penetrated Honduran territory, as the Reagan administration has charged. He also denied that Sandinist soldiers have been captured by the rebels and challenged the Reagan administration to show those presumably detained.

TUNNERMAN REFUTES CHARGES OF SANDINIST INVASION

PA260911 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0325 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, 25 Mar (EFE) -- The "slanderous affirmations" by the U.S. Government "are part of the campaign to present Nicaragua as an aggressor country and thus secure Congress approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolution," the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Washington stated today.

"If, as the U.S. Administration says, the contras have Sandinist prisoners, it would be good if they presented them," Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman stated. He reiterated the Sandinist desire to "defeat the contras who are inside Nicaragua, but not those who are in Honduras" and said that these incidents are occurring because the contras use Honduras as a sanctuary."

At a press conference the ambassador read a press communique supplied by the Managua Foreign Ministry rejecting as "totally false" the participation of Nicaraguan troops in a possible invasion against Honduras, denounced by Washington and Tegucigalpa. He admitted that "there may" have been a clash with the rebels, "but inside Nicaraguan territory."

Tunnerman termed "very surprising" the change in the Honduran Government which in the morning "denied the invasion and a request for aid to the United States, but a few hours later, in a 180-degree turn, admitted both things."

He said that the last telephone contact between President Daniel Ortega and Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo was on Sunday when, according to the U.S. Administration, the invasion by Sandinist troops had already occurred. He asked the U.S. Congress that "before stating its stand on the matter, it wait to have evidence, because it is unfortunate to accept as a fact that which is false." The Senate will debate tomorrow the granting of $100 million in military and humanitarian aid to the "contras" and late in the afternoon or on Thursday morning will vote on the aid.

Astorga Refutes Charge

PA252352 Paris AFP in Spanish 2314 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] United Nations, New York, 25 Mar (AFP) -- Nicaragua has categorically rejected the "lies" reported by the United States of an alleged incursion of Nicaraguan troops into Honduras, and accused the Reagan administration of trying to find a pretext for a direct intervention against the Sandinist regime. Nora Astorga, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, categorically denied that troops from her country are at this moment in Honduran territory, because Nicaragua is not an aggressor, "it does not have aggressive plans against Honduras or anyone else."

"The United States has told many lies...the danger of this is that some end up believing them," Astorga said during a press conference. When asked if she would take back her words if evidence of a Nicaraguan intervention in Honduras were presented to her, Astorga said that "it is impossible to obtain any evidence," while mentioning that the United States had already accused Nicaragua of supporting the guerrillas in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, "which was a big surprise for the authorities of those countries."

In Astorga's opinion, the alleged Nicaraguan incursion is "a fake incident...an act of provocation," orchestrated by the Reagan administration in order to obtain the aid for the counterrevolutionaries from the U.S. Congress or to find a pretext for a direct invasion.

Asked about the current U.S.-Libyan confrontation in the Mediterranean, she replied: "Reagan is trying to prove that he is strong."

The Nicaraguan representative, who for the time being does not plan to resort to the UN Security Council for what she termed a "very delicate situation," told reporters: You should ask yourself "why now?"

Asked why Honduras agrees with Washington's report on the nature of the Nicaraguan incursion, Astorga responded that Honduras "is an occupied country...subject to pressure." The Honduran territory, she went on, "is used by the contras."

Apparently the Nicaraguan and Honduran presidents, Daniel Ortega and Jose Azcona, have held telephone conversations in the past few days. According to Astorga, the most recent conversation was held "last night or this morning."

These conversations could not have taken place if, as some reports claim, fighting has been taking place on the border between the two countries since the weekend. Astorga concluded by saying that Nicaragua will keep the Contadora Group countries informed about this "act of provocation."

Government Communique

PA252154 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 2030 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Communique released by the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa on 25 March 1986]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Embassy hereby transcribes a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry today, 25 March 1986.

In view of the U.S. Government's slanderous assertions that Nicaraguan troops have invaded Honduras, the Foreign Ministry reports this: It is completely false that Nicaraguan troops have participated in an invasion against the friendly Republic of Honduras. The Honduran and Nicaraguan presidents have been in touch during these past few days, a fact that demonstrates the normal relations between the two countries.

The Nicaraguan Government rejects the U.S. Government's campaign as a gross maneuver, the sole objective of which is to have an additional $100 million in aid approved to continue murdering the Nicaraguan people and disrespecting Honduran soil.

The Reagan administration's dirty move also aims at taking attention away from the murder of William Arsenault, a Canadian Catholic priest, a few days ago in Honduras. This crime and many other outrages of the counterrevolutionary CIA mercenaries in Honduras have been reported by Msgr Luis Alfonso Santos, Santa Rosa de Copan bishop. These reports, however, have not been published by the U.S. news media.

Managua, 25 March 1986

Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa

HONDURAS DENIES SANDINIST INCURSION

PA251850 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. diplomacy has made another grave blunder. The report on an incursion by Sandinist troops in Honduran territory on Sunday turned out to be a lie. The Tegucigalpa government denied the report after a meeting last night of the Honduran National Security Council that was presided over by President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

The report was irresponsibly issued by Elliott Abrams, head of U.S. diplomacy in Latin America, in the White House. The blunder was made worse by the fact that he failed to coordinate the telling of the lie with the members of the Honduran Administration. The Honduran Armed Forces, represented by the chief of the various services, informed President Azcona that they had received absolutely no report from the border on an incursion by 1,000 Sandinist troops in Honduran territory and concluded that it was a speculative report on the part of the White House.

The Honduran Foreign Relations Secretariat will issue a statement on the matter today, government Press Secretary Lisandro Quezada reported today.

He acknowledged that this was a link in the U.S. Government's chain of efforts to obtain approval for $100 million for the counterrevolution.

Last weekend Abrams conducted very low-key visits in Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. Upon his return to Washington he attempted to justify his trip's expenses with a lie that was exposed by the Honduran Government. Other Latin American governments, including the Argentine and Brazilian Governments, had exposed several days ago other lies told by the Reagan administration.

'TERRORIST PLOT' FRUSTRATED IN REGION 2

PA260321 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The General Directorate of State Security has frustrated a terrorist plot designed by the Reagan administration to sow terror and uncertainty in Nicaragua's Region 2, at a time when the U.S. Congress was deliberating on the granting of $100 million in funds for the counterrevolution. This was reported today during a press conference called by Captains Vicente Chavez and Eric Reyes Baldizon, chief and deputy chief of the state security agency in Region 2. During the meeting with the press, the authorities presented 11 counterrevolutionaries who were arrested, including 2 FDN chieftains, Roger Perez and Antonio Guerrero Arevalo. The rebels, who intended to destroy this criminal plan, were presented by Capt Vicente Chavez. [sentence as heard]

[Begin recording] The plot sought to destabilize the Sandinist revolution and create conditions to prompt the approval of the $100 million under discussion in the U.S. Congress. The plot was exposed thanks to the dedicated efforts of the state security and Interior Ministry agents. The plan included the blowing up of economic targets, including cotton harvesting equipment, and military targets, [words indistinct] harassment. We arrested 11 members of this internal front. They operated in the area of Potosi, in local villages and nearby hamlets. [end recording]

EPS DISRUPTS CONTRA PLANS IN CHONTALES

PA242352 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[By Denis Ruiz]

[Text] The EPS and the Interior Ministry have jointly dealt harsh blows to the FDN mercenary forces in the northern part of Santo Domingo, Chontales, the chief of the Interior Ministry in that area, Lieutenant Aguinaldo Castillo, has reported. Castillo explained that since last December and up to late in February of this year the mercenaries were planning to carry out operations against the military and economic targets of the area. Their plans have been completely defeated and the mercenaries have been forced deep into the Santo Domingo mountains.

The military chief added that during that period of time the counterrevolutionaries were planning to boycott the project of the ministry to build a highway running from Los Chiles to (Colinguacito), destroy the school and the equipment in the area of La Cusuca, harass the people of Santo Domingo, and pass through this area in order to enter the highway to Rama. The counterrevolutionaries were desperately planning to carry out these actions, but these plans have been disrupted by the EPS troops.

Lt Aguinaldo Castillo added that 14 persons, including 4 youths who joined the contras in an attempt to evade the Patriotic Military Service, deserted the counterrevolutionaries during this same operation. He also emphasized that the troops are fiercely fighting the enemy in the areas of San Miguel, (La Atuaya), Kuscawas, El Carrizal, and the El Redondo and El Achiote Hills, about 70 km north of Santo Domingo, Chontales.

CONTRAS KIDNAP CIVILIANS NEAR PUERTO CABEZAS

PA242353 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Two Nicaraguan civilians were kidnapped on 20 March by Somozist mercenary bands. Tomas Ruiz and Omar Castillo, workers of the People's Forest Corporation of Nicaragua, were ambushed when they were riding in a Toyota station wagon about 24 km northwest of Puerto Cabezas, in the Atlantic coastal area. The Defense Ministry reported this action today.

PROPOSAL TO HOST 1989 NONALIGNED MOVEMENT SUMMIT

PA252258 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has officially proposed that Nicaragua be the site of the ninth summit of the Nonaligned Movement, set for 1989, Foreign Ministry sources confirmed today. The note states that Nicaragua's offer was made official through a written message that President Daniel Ortega personally handed to Indian President Rajiv Gandhi, president of the Nonaligned Movement, in Stockholm.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera has notified the Argentine, Peruvian, and Panamanian Governments, and all the heads of state of the Nonaligned Movement member-countries of the Nicaraguan Government's decision, including details on the preparations for that meeting that Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism Director Herty Lewites made during a visit to Colombia. The note adds that all of the Nonaligned Movement member-countries have welcomed Nicaragua's invitation, pointing out that this is the first country that has offered to host the 1989 event.

BRIEFS

COFFEE HARVEST STATISTICS -- The 1985-86 coffee harvest yielded a little over 800,000 quintals of premium coffee in Nicaragua, a spokesman for the Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry has reported. The official added that the drop in production was due to premature ripening of the coffee beans and the lack of manpower, but that quality has been improved, which means that prices in the international market will be better. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 86 PA]

REPORTAGE ON U.S.-LIBYAN CONFLICT IN GULF OF SIDRA

PA260258 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

["Note" read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] At daybreak Tuesday U.S. planes again violated Libya's airspace and attacked two patrol boats and areas of the city of Surt. Libyan anti-aircraft units answered the attack and fired at least six missiles at the planes that were flying over the Gulf of Sidra, but none was reported shot down. In the meantime, AFP has reported that the U.S. missile-carrying frigate Colonne of the 6th Fleet sailed today from the Spanish port of Palma de Mallorca for the Gulf of Sidra. The frigate Colonne is equipped with ultramodern electronic gear and antisubmarine and anti-aircraft armament.

The U.S. provocation began on 24 March when U.S. aircraft bombed Surt's outskirts. A short time later the Libyan news agency JANA asserted that the country's anti-aircraft defenses had shot down three of the attacking planes, which fell in the gulf's waters. Following the violation of the Libyan airspace, U.S. fighters attacked two Libyan ships, one of which was sunk. In Washington U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and White House spokesman Larry Speakes confirmed that planes from the aircraft carrier Saratoga carried out the attacks on Surt's outskirts and two Libyan boats.

Meanwhile, Libyan radio urged the entire Arab nation to rise against U.S. interests in the world in response to the violation of the Arab country's sovereignty. In Tunis, the Arab League Council said that it will give the necessary support to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in view of the constant U.S. pressures.

U.S. To Aid Honduras

PA251831 Havana International Service in Spanish 1805 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan will ask the U.S. Congress to approve $20 million in emergency military aid for Honduras, White House officials have reported. The sources added that the U.S. decision is justified because Nicaraguan troops entered 25 km inside the Honduran territory.

Those reports have been denied by the Tegucigalpa government. Lisandro Quezada, press secretary of the Honduran Government, has admitted that the reports in Washington came from an official source in the United States. Quezada said: Those false reports are due exclusively to President Reagan's anxiety to get the U.S. people to support his request for $100 million to help the Somozist mercenary bands attacking Nicaragua.

U.S. 'Aggression' Scored

FL251304 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The most recent incidents in the Gulf of Sidra, 15,000 km from U.S. territory, have once again caused international public repudiation of Washington's provocative acts against Libyan sovereignty.

As of 19 March, three U.S. aircraft carriers with 240 combat planes and more than 2 dozen naval units have been located off the coast of Libya and have been holding warlike military maneuvers for the second time this year in that region.

To further accentuate the provocative nature of these maneuvers, U.S. fighter planes flew over the line that the Tripoli government claims as part of its territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra. This act forced the Libyan authorities to respond strongly by shooting down three U.S. aircraft. Two Libyan ships were sunk in the meantime. These acts marking the beginning of new confrontations are the result of Washington's aggressive policy toward Libya over the years, a policy saturated with arrogant threats and economic pressures.

In 1981 the United States imposed unilateral economic sanctions against Libya, which virtually annulled reciprocal trade. Last January, and always under the false banner of antiterrorism, the Reagan administration adopted new economic measures against the Libyan people and alluded to the possibility of military actions.

Observers have said the new chapter in the history of Yankee aggression against Libya suspiciously coincides with the campaign President Reagan is conducting in Congress, where he hopes to obtain more funds for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. However, the U.S. leader's anti-Libyan policy could provoke a true bonfire of solidarity with Libya in the Middle East, as will surely happen in Central America if the United States intervenes directly in Nicaragua.

Further Comment

PA260709 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

["Point of View" commentary, read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The holding of provocative maneuvers off the coasts of Libya, a country hundreds of kilometers from the U.S. territory, and the violation of waters that Tripoli rightfully claims as its own are the causes of the serious armed confrontation that took place (?Monday) between the United States and that northern Africa nation.

Libyan anti-aircraft defenses shot down three U.S. planes that bombed the outskirts of Surt, one of the most densely populated cities in the country. According to a report by the news agency of that Arab nation, the planes fell in the waters of the gulf. The United States claims to have sunk several Libyan ships.

No one doubts that the Pentagon prepared beforehand to attack Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's government. The large concentration of war supplies, which include 45 ships -- 3 of them aircraft carriers -- and approximately 240 U.S. Navy planes confirm that Washington pursued premeditated, warlike goals. These maneuvers -- the third held by Washington in less than 4 months -- are characterized as provocative by Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan head of state, who had warned that if the United States violated Parallel 32 it would be regarded as a virtual declaration of war.

These war games are not isolated actions. They form part of Washington's anti-Libyan policy, which has taken on an obsessive tone during Ronald Reagan's administration.

Late last year the White House declared a commercial embargo against Tripoli, froze its funds in U.S. banks, and orchestrated a wild diplomatic and press campaign fraught with distortions and lies against Al-Qadhdhafi's government efforts. Reagan justifies his anti-Libyan campaign with charges of terrorism he has never been able to prove. However, at the bottom of the U.S. virulence lies Washington's visceral hatred of the independent policy followed by Tripoli and, above all, the support it gives to the just Palestinian cause, which is the main problem in the conflict in the Middle East. In other words, the serious situation that arose on Monday because of the Pentagon's disrespect of the sovereignty of that north African country is far from being a fortuitious event, the consequences of which escape the Yankee strategists, who apparently have forgotten the dramatic lesson of the war in Vietnam.

Aside from the tension arising from a possible prolongation of the conflict, which would turn the Mediterranean into the scene of fighting, other problems loom over the action perpetrated by the White House. A few hours ago the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dante Fascell, disclosed that President Reagan had possibly violated the War Powers Act of 1973 by not consulting Congress about the order to attack.

The resolute response of the Libyan people and Government to the violation of their sovereignty demonstrates that they are firmly determined to struggle with all forces and means against the U.S. aggressor. If the United States continues with its military actions against that Arab country, Parallel 32 may become, as Al-Qadhdhafi has said, the line of death for the U.S. forces.

ANC'S TAMBO ARRIVES, COMMENTS ON STRUGGLE

PA252146 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Oliver Tambo, president of the Executive Committee of the African National Congress [ANC] of South Africa, arrived here on Friday at the official invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. He was welcomed at the Jose Marti Airport by Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat, as well as other Cuban leaders and diplomats from African and socialist countries, in addition to an enthusiastic group of South African university students who are studying in Cuba.

In his first statements to the press, Tambo emphasized that Cuba is present in Africa, struggling shoulder-to-shoulder with those who are fighting against the aggressive racist regime of Pretoria. The ANC president charged that U.S. aid to the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] mercenaries is further complicating that situation in southern Africa. He emphasized that in spite of the brutal aggression, the black people's morale is higher than ever in the struggle against racial oppression.

Castro Decorates Tambo

FL251354 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has presented the Playa Giron Order to Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa during a solemn ceremony in Havana.

The order was conferred by the Cuban Council of State to the South African patriot in recognition of his untiring political struggle against the racist regime of Pretoria.

Risquet, Tambo Speak

FL251412 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Closing a ceremony expressing solidarity with the African people's struggle, Jorge Risquet, Politburo and Secretariat member, has said the Reagan administration's policy of compromise with the apartheid regime is a justification aimed at demonstrating agreement with the ideology and plans to subjugate peoples and dominate the world through violence and terror.

The ceremony also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Angola's victory. Oliver Tambo, ANC president, also spoke at the ceremony.

Visit Isle of Youth

FL260220 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the ANC, Oliver Tambo, has arrived on the Isle of Youth, accompanied by Jorge Risquet. The distinguished visitor and those accompanying him were received at the Nueva Gerona Airport by Armando Manresa, member of the Central Committee and first party secretary of the special municipality.

RODRIGUEZ MEETS GUYANESE MINISTER JACKSON

FL211804 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Politburo Member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Guyanese Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, who is on an official visit to Cuba. During the meeting the two leaders discussed several aspects of the international situation, especially Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the Nonaligned Countries Movement. They also discussed the positive developments achieved in bilateral relations.

Protocol Signed; Jackson Leaves

FL211817 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Rashleigh Jackson, foreign minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, has departed for Guyana after an official 5-day visit to Cuba. Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban foreign minister, accompanied Jackson to the Jose Marti International Airport. The two ministers spoke briefly before leaving the terminal. A few hours earlier they signed a 2-year cooperation protocol.

MALMIERCA MEETS WITH VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL

FL221326 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Vo Dong Giang, Vietnamese vice minister of foreign affairs, have met in Havana. The two officials expressed satisfaction with the positive development of relations between Cuba and Vietnam and exchanged opinions on the international situation and the Nonaligned Countries Movement.

HAITI

STREET FIRES SET TO PROTEST MILITARY GOVERNMENT

FL251504 Bridgetown CANA in English 1448 GMT 25 Mar 86

[By John Cotter]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, March 25, CANA-Reuter -- Street fires flickered into the early hours today as young protesters vowed to bring down the six-week old government of Lieutenant General Henri Namphy. The pop of rifle and machine-gun fire echoes through the night in this capital but there were no reports of deaths or injuries. Witnesses said it appeared that police and soldiers in pick-up trucks were mainly firing into the air to enforce the curfew. Journalists who toured the more troubled districts before midnight found mostly deserted streets.

The demonstrators, including a newly formed group composed of journalists, students and young priests called the Committee to Ignite Democracy (CID) are seeking to replace the Namphy-led ruling council with an interim civilian government. We don't want any trouble, but we will escalate this campaign until the military government steps down, said one young leader of a band of men in their late teen's and twenty's setting tires, rubbish bins and packing crates on fire in a run-down district about four blocks from the National Palace. Mobs of youths set rubbish fires at scores of intersections throughout the Haitian capital tonight to press their demands for formation of a civilian government. Squads of firemen and soldiers raced through the streets to fight the burning barricades.

The fires, their pitch black smoke obscuring the sunset, ended yesterday's anti-government protests that began with a peaceful march on the palace by as many as 15,000 people, most of them young. In between, Lt Gen Henri Namphy, the president of the ruling council that took over Haiti after the flight of dictator Jean Claude Baby Doc Duvalier, went on national radio and renewed a pledge to usher the beleagured Caribbean nation toward democracy. Namphy also announced a series of ministerial appointments that were viewed by western diplomats and political observers as another in a series of bids to stem public outcry against the military-dominated rule. On Friday, the 53-year-old career soldier, who has the backing of the United States, dismissed three members of the council with past links to Duvalier or his more notorious father, Francois Papa Doc Duvalier.

Both the morning marchers and the evening fire starters said they would continue to demonstrate for the establishment of a civilian government. We don't have anything against Namphy or the military, said Pierre Antoine, a 21-year-old unemployed man, as he and friends tossed tires, empty packing crates and sodden garbage on a fire at the intersection of Rues Courbe and Tiremasse. He added, but as long as the army's man (Namphy) is in power we will never have any real free elections. We need civilians to pave the way for democracy.

Hundreds of residents poured into the streets to watch the burning fires. The capital remained under a longstanding curfew later and the mood was one of tension. There were no reports of trouble in provincial cities where the revolt that overthrew Duvalier began in earnest last November. At a blockaded bridge crossing the River Bretelle, south of the former city of Duvalierville, now called Caberet, about 50 youths said they would continue to block Highway One daily until the government bowed to their demands.

Calls for a general strike in the nation yesterday did not materialize, though managers of some smaller plants in the city reported some worker absenteeism. The absence of a general strike appeared to strengthen the new government's hand and one source close to the council said: We're taking this as a good sign. Maybe the people now realize that everything can't be accomplished in six weeks.

JAMAICA

COMMUNIST PARTY CRITICIZES SEAGA GOVERNMENT

FL251806 Bridgetown CANA in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 25, CANA -- The Communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) has accused the main opposition group here -- the Democratic Socialist Peoples National Party (PNP) -- of being soft with the Edward Seaga Government in the face of harsh economic austerity policies. They are the ones (the PNP) who now have the... support of the majority of Jamaicans. They are the ones who therefore have to take the majority of the blame that Seaga and imperialism are still on top of us, WPJ General Secretary Dr Trevor Munroe said in a paid radio broadcast.

Munroe, however, made it clear that his party was not proposing violence or sabotage against the government. What we are saying is that the time has come and the time is now for nationwide peaceful, organised civil disobedience,... he added.

During the PNP's period in office in the 1970's the WPJ gave critical support to the government, but since its election loss in 1980 Manley has been attempting to distance his party from the Communists. The PNP has argued that misleading perceptions from WPJ's support contributed to its defeat.

Munroe in his broadcast said the PNP's strategy of all night vigils and petitions to the government to change economic policies and calls for elections without strong follow-through would not work against the rightwing Seaga government.

Constitutionally a general election is not due until late 1988, but the PNP has argued that an election legitimately should be held this year because the December 1983 poll was called on an outdated voters list and without the implementation of reforms to eliminate fraudulent voting.

Munroe advised the PNP, led by former Prime Minister Michael Manley, to drop its fear of the Seaga government and to put your confidence in the masses of the workers and the small people in Jamaica and around the world.

The WPJ's general secretary, whose party's support generally ranges between one and four per cent, was also critical of WPJ who are not out there with the people, who are not talking out enough, who are not winning enough new members to our party, who are even wondering whether the people can move Seaga.